

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) In an enterprise planning model, ~~a computer based method for visualizing an effect of a strategic constraint on a primary goal of an enterprise, said method a computer program residing in memory and executable by a processor, said computer program enabling visualization of an effect of a strategic constraint on a primary goal of an enterprise, said computer program instructing said processor to perform operations comprising:~~

selecting said primary goal of said enterprise planning model, said primary goal being represented by a primary objective function, said primary objective function depending upon a set of operational variables;

representing said strategic constraint by a constraint function, said constraint function depending upon a subset of said operational variables;

constructing an effective objective function by combining said primary objective function and said constraint function;

optimizing said primary effective objective function over a range of target values for said constraint function, said optimizing operation being performed using a computing system to obtain operational decisions for said operational variables;

determining, from said optimizing operation, a plurality of outcomes of said primary objective function in response to said range of target values; and

presenting a graphical view of said plurality of outcomes of said primary objective function [[for]] versus values of said constraint function corresponding to said target values of said constraint function, said graphical view providing a visualization of said effect of said strategic constraint on said primary goal of said enterprise such that effects of said

strategic constraint on said primary goal can be readily perceived by a user to manage said enterprise.

2. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method A computer program as claimed in claim 1 wherein said target values within said range of target values represent scenarios for said strategic constraint.

3. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method A computer program as claimed in claim 2 wherein said computer program instructs said processor to perform further operations comprising:

selecting a set of said scenarios for said strategic constraint; and

for each of said set of said scenarios, providing a set of said operational decisions for said operational variables that optimize said primary goal while concurrently satisfying said strategic constraint.

4. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method A computer program as claimed in claim 3 wherein said computer program instructs said processor to perform further operations comprising:

targeting, in response to said providing operation, enabling said user to target one of said scenarios from said set of said scenarios to be realized within said enterprise; and

obtaining providing said set of said operational decisions associated with said one of said scenarios to said user.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method A computer program as claimed in claim 1 further wherein said computer program instructs said processor to perform a further operation of said optimizing operation comprising:

~~forming an effective objective function by combining said primary objective function and said constraint function, said effective objective function depending upon said set of operational variables; and~~

~~optimizing said effective objective function to yield outputting said operational decisions for said set of operational variables that optimize said objective function while concurrently satisfying said target values for said constraint function.~~

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer-based method A computer program~~ as claimed in claim [[5]] 1 wherein ~~said forming operation comprises said computer program instructs said processor to perform a further operation of said optimizing operation comprising selecting a range of weighting factors for said constraint function, said weighting factors adjusting an effect that said constraint function has on said objective function, and said optimizing operation optimizes said effective objective function for each of said weighting factors in said range.~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer-based method A computer program~~ as claimed in 1 wherein:

~~said selecting operation selects said primary goal that is limited by physical constraints of said enterprise planning model; and~~

~~said representing operation defines said strategic constraint to be is non-limited by said physical constraints of said enterprise planning model.~~